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# Digest

THIRTY-THIRD YEAR OF

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March 20th, 1948

## Up Came McGinty From The Bottom Of The Sea.

Down went McGinty  
To the bottom of the sea,  
For he was the original rover,  
Up came McGinty  
From the bottom of the sea,  
Dressed in a mantle of clover,  
No sea-weed was there,  
No coral, nor pearl,  
Twas a shamrock he held  
As a man his best girl;  
There was green in his hair,  
A green light in his eye,  
There was green in his hat—  
I would not tell a lie.

He beckoned me to come,  
Then danced an Irish Reel,  
While the waters kissed his feet—  
And then I saw him kneel,  
Said McGinty, "Dear St. Patrick,  
'Tis the Seventeenth of March,  
The sea is green, but underneath  
Green trees of pine and larch,  
The moss is green, the fish are green,  
And shamrocks grow a-plenty,  
There are no snakes, green eels are there,  
Green as my name, McGinty".

St. Patrick laughed and blest the man,  
But winked his other eye,  
At me, who stood there open-mouthed—  
The truth I'll not deny.  
McGinty tossed the clover,  
And the clover flew to me,  
A four-leaf clover on the wing,  
I rubbed my eyes to see,  
It looked just like McGinty  
From the bottom of the sea.

—RAY LEWIS.

## Montreal News

By ROY LESTER

CHARLIE CHAPLIN'S latest production, "Monsieur Verdoux", which is now playing at the Palace Theatre, was said to have caused a riot in Rome last week because of the inclusion in the film of a picture of Mussolini . . . A special news reel commentary of the huge reception given Olympic skating queen, Barbara Ann Scott, by the City of Ottawa, was rushed here this last week and was immediately included in the regular programme at the Palace Theatre . . . The new films that are now playing the main circuit include "Nightmare Alley", starring Tyrone Power, at the Capitol, and "I Love Trouble", featuring Franchot Tone at the Princess, while "Captain from Castile" is playing to large audiences at the Loew's and is in its 2nd week . . . The Sigmund Romberg operetta "Blossom Time" will be presented at His Majesty's Theatre for one week beginning Monday, March 29th. The star is Everett Marshall, who is said to possess one of the best voices on the operatic and musical comedy stage . . . On the heels of many musical celebrities, which included Gene Krupa and Randy Brooks, the Chez Maurice Danceland presented Cab Calloway and his orchestra on March 8th and 9th.

The R-K-O film version of Eugene O'Neill's play, "Mourning Becomes Electra", starring Rosalind Russell, Raymond Massey, and Michael Redgrave, the latter who is soon to be seen here in Shakespeare's "Macbeth", is to be shown at His Majesty's Theatre, commencing April 12th. The picture will be shown twice daily, with all seats reserved.

\* \* \*

The noted French film director, Maurice DeCanonge, who is considered the "Alfred Hitchcock of France" arrived in Canada last week to study the production possibilities in this country for his new picture entitled "Marion of the Snow", as well as to make a survey of the films already produced.

In Montreal, Mr. DeCanonge expressed himself as being well satisfied with the possibilities of the Quebec Production's studios in St. Hyacinthe, and stated that they are well equipped, as well as being somewhat larger than his own Paris studios.

The French director plans to return to Canada next summer, when he will make a film employing almost entirely Canadian actors. Being equally fluent in both French and English, he hopes to produce films in both languages.

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It is learned here that Maurice Chevalier, the famous French singing star, will again delight Montreal audiences in the near future, for he will be presented by Canadian Concerts and Artists Inc. at the Plateau Hall, for 9 performances sometime next month. Chevalier was seen here last May, and his 12 appearances were completely sold out. The coming Montreal engagement is part of a Canadian tour that will include performances in Quebec City, Sherbrooke, Ottawa and Toronto.

J. Arthur Rank Presents

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DENNIS PRICE TOM WALLS

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## RAY PRESENTS



IN the midst of all the deadly headlines, which are current, and the rumors of War, there was one ray of comfort, the headline which announced, "Britain Ends Heavy Tax On Hollywood Movies". Now, the American Motion Picture Industry and the British Film Industry can carry on, together, increasing film trade for their mutual benefit.

Harold Wilson, President of the British Board of Trade, made the announcement in the House of Commons, after conferring with a delegation of Hollywood producers, represented by Eric Johnston, President of the Motion Picture Association of America. They arrived at an agreement, which covers a four year period, effective June 14th, but which will be subject to review after a period of two years.

*With the withdrawal of the 75% ad Valorem tax, business in the Film Trade will continue as usual, and back to normal. Mr. Wilson stated that the tax "would be withdrawn as quickly as the necessary order could be made, and that the normal export of American films to Britain will resume as soon as possible".*

*For the first two years, American producers may export to the United States \$17,000,000 of their distribution and exhibition revenue, yearly, and they may, in addition, withdraw, dollar for dollar, the equivalent of the earnings on British Films in the United States. The \$17,000,000 covers earnings from old films as well as new imports.*

*The agreement provides for certain use of earnings which cannot be exported, these earnings to be under the joint control of the British Government and the American producers.*

IT has been a long and difficult arbitration, which fortunately, under the direction of Eric Johnston, representing the American producers side of the picture, has achieved results. We must not forget that the American producers received a great deal of support from the Kinematograph Exhibitors' Association, the members being much opposed to the taxation and the curtailment of American Film Imports.

*Importation of costly stage stars did not solve the dollar problem for England, and increased the cost of Entertainment. England is in no better position, in fact in not as good a position, as in the United States, in keeping a steady supply of pictures for theatres, despite the fact, that Hollywood produces hundreds of pictures yearly.*

*The growth of the foreign-language theatres, and the foreign-language picture market, in the United States, reveals, that in Entertainment, there must be variety to keep the public's interest.*

THE film has become a vital factor in international relationships. It has become a necessity for those nations who desire to maintain international trade and friendships. Only those nations, which believe in the divine right of kings, in absolute monarchy, or in dictatorship will legislate to exclude foreign films, for each exclusion reveals that they are not interested in letting their people see how the other half of the world lives.

*National barriers are destructive and not a constructive force; and the nation which utilizes such barriers, whether the restriction takes the form of a Government Controlled Monopoly, or High Tariffs, will find what they give, they will receive. They are establishing a code of behavior for other countries to follow and may, like Robespierre, be guillotined on the guillotine which they invented.*

NOW, that the British problem is on the way to being solved, Hollywood can again produce pictures, involving expenditures, to be recouped from the foreign market; and I feel certain that what has happened will not only bring millions of dollars to Great Britain, through American Film and other Trade, but it will have a far-reaching effect. Other countries, who have been playing around with the same idea and have hamstrung free trade, in relationship to Films, may be inspired to change their policies. Meanwhile, it is important for Hollywood not to rest on its laurels. Public Relations is an important factor in Trade, particularly Film Trade, and Hollywood should take no country for granted.

*I am glad to hear of the film interest in Canada. I visited Phil Rosen, a pioneer producer, who has just finished producing a picture, "Sins Of The Fathers", in Canada, at the Quebec Productions studio in St. Hyacinthe. Phil Rosen is at present in the Toronto General Hospital, following an illness. He told me that his shooting was completed in ten days and that he secured all of his players in Canada. "What a country for talent", said Phil Rosen. His picture is now in the "cutting stage", and needless to say, it did not cost a million dollars.*

*When I asked him if he got what he wanted and had a good picture, Phil Rosen laughed, "I think it is good, my associates think it is very good, but wait and see".*

MEANWHILE, most of the producers are becoming noticeably interested in Canada; and it will not be long before Canada will be on the map of the Screens of the World. Just as a little reminder to producers and distributors, and with all due consideration and respect to the American and British Trade press, which those in the Trade here have pleasure in reading, we have, in Canada, our own Film Trade Press, to which the American and the British Film Industry, as well as the French Film Industry, have contributed very little, but received very much.

*In considering foreign territories, public relations, good will, think about their respective Film Trade Press, don't take them for granted, don't feel that they are not necessary; remember, that in doing business in a foreign country, the people of that country think that their respective enterprises are very necessary, and while they are friendly toward competition, they are not so friendly that they invite extinction.*

SIXTY THOUSAND people were on the streets in Toronto, on Saturday, to welcome Barbara Ann Scott, International Women's Skating Champion. Barbara Ann received the Freedom of the city, bestowed on her by His Worship, Mayor McCallum. Toronto really let herself go and I do not believe that Barbara Ann will ever forget the warmth and the affection which went into her greeting. There is something about Barbara Ann which is truly Canadian, some intangible quality which comes from our soil, and which is as good as our wheat.

*"Nicholas Nickleby" was held over for a second week at the Odeon Fairlawn, and Odeon's publicity department advised their patrons of the hold-over, and the postponement of "The Barber of Seville", in the form of very attractive and intimate advertising. The display ad, in the press read, "Have you ever waited for The Barber? Now the Barber must wait".*

RONALD COLMAN, in the Universal-International picture, "A Double Life", held over for a second week at Loew's Uptown, Toronto. Ronald Colman certainly does one of the best characterizations of his screen career in this picture, both in and out of the character of "Othello". M-G-M's "Cass Timberlane" is another

(Continued on Page 9)



## Toronto and District

By BILL PRESS

ON top of his rapid-fire in connection with the production of news-reel pictures of the Royal Wedding in London last November, Win Barron, "The Voice of Paramount", provided speedy delivery of the topical shots of the arrival and welcome to Barbara Ann Scott, world's top skater, in her Ottawa home town. Pictures of the rousing reception for Barbara Ann were on the screen of first-run theatres a bare 24 hours after the event.

Win Barron went from his Toronto office to supervise the shooting of news pictures at Ottawa and the noisy acclaim had not died down before he flew to Montreal for the processing of the negatives. The prints were ready for the theatres by noon of the following day after having cleared through the Ontario Censor Board office at Toronto.

M-G-M News and Warner Bros. also gave quick service in turning out topical shots of Miss Scott's homecoming.

*Marcus Loew's Theatres Limited, Toronto, has declared a dividend of \$1 per share on the common stock of the company to be paid March 31st to shareholders who were on the roll at March 10th.*

Cheaper and readily available equipment for theatres and radio broadcasting, as well as for television, when it comes, is promised for Southern Ontario when the switch is made from 25 to 60 cycles in the electrical service. Exhibitors have been paying more for 25-cycle projection and sound apparatus in the area from Oshawa to Windsor because the need for such equipment has been small in comparison with requirements elsewhere on this continent.

It has been stated that television developments will be speeded because of the change-over, while 60-cycle current will prove more satisfactory because the images will be clearer. In broadcasting, 17 radio stations will be affected, including five in Toronto, two in Hamilton and others in the smaller cities of Niagara and Western Ontario.

### NO PREMIUMS

It was erroneously reported in the Toronto and District news, in our last week's issue, that the Doric Theatre, Bloor and Gladstone Streets, Toronto, was one of the many theatres introducing premiums to increase attendance. According to a statement from the management, the Doric is not, and has no intentions, of introducing premiums or other such inducements.

*The Palace Theatre, Danforth Avenue, Toronto, emerged from its second reconditioning job on March 8th when Manager C. L. Querric re-opened with "Perils of Pauline" after a lengthy layoff during which many improvements were made, including the installation of the latest push back seats.*

The Toronto Hollywood had the Canadian premiere of "Love on the Dole", a British film, under a special policy which barred the admission of juveniles under 16 years of age. The picture was one of five features which had been classed as "Adult" by the Ontario censor board in January.

*The Cameo on Pape Avenue, a Toronto unit of 20th Century Theatres, is the latest to be added to the theatres which now offer giveaways. The premiums are silverware.*

Following the reorganization of the Canadian distributing company for M-G-M product under the new title of Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer Pictures of Canada Limited, Toronto, notice has been given of the surrender of the federal company charter for Regal Films Limited. The legal notice is signed by Gordon Lightstone, as secretary of the former company.

*France Film, Montreal, has acquired the Figaro Theatre in Hull which was opened a year ago. First-run French-language pictures are to be booked into the Figaro and it is expected the name of the theatre will be changed to Cinema de Paris.*

Nine months after the work was started, the big Imperial Theatre in Toronto has an entrance on Yonge Street that does not resemble the shipping door of a warehouse. The streamlining job was started June 1st and the raw structure was covered with signs for the premiere of "Variety Girl" last August, since which time there has been a mixture of new and old in the appearance of the lobby.

*The Palace Theatre, Hamilton, had a one-night performance of the Toronto Symphony Orchestra on March 10th while the Hamilton Savoy had a two-day stage engagement of the Dublin Gate unit.*

Another professor has been added to the National Film Board Committee, in the appointment, by the Dominion Government, of Jean Charles Falardeau, Faculty of Special Sciences, Laval University, Quebec. He succeeds Edmond Turcotte who was recently made Canadian consul-general at Chicago.

### The Canadian Moving Picture Digest

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*The United Church of Canada has reached the stage where it is advertising a "million dollar movie" for showing in churches on Sundays and other times. The picture is "Golgotha", a sound feature which was produced in France. The print in Canada has English dialogue.*

Robert H. Saunders, former mayor of Toronto, was down in Ottawa but the information was forthcoming that he was conferring with officials in behalf of the Ontario Hydro-Electric Commission of which he became chairman March 1st. He was not dealing with the proposal for the transfer of the Federal amusement tax to the Ontario Province and municipalities for which he was the chief proponent for several years.

*The Canadian premiere of Allied Artists' Tchaikovsky film, "Song of My Heart" was held at the International Cinema, Toronto, this week. Monogram Films distributes all Allied product in Canada.*

The National Film Board is producing a two-reel picture which deals with the small-town weekly newspapers of Canada. The film, called "Home Town Paper", was taken in the plant of the News in Vernon, B.C., one of the best of the weeklies, but it will not be shown in the theatres until June when the annual convention of the Canadian Weekly Newspapers Association is being held at Niagara Falls, Ont.

*Congratulations to Dawson Exley, Odeon booker, who is the father of a seven pound baby girl.*

Hon. J. Earl Lawson, president of Odeon Theatres of Canada, J. Arthur Rank's Canadian theatre circuit, was the guest speaker at the annual banquet of the Toronto Public School Masters, recently. He spoke on the question of British films for Canadians, and the place of films in classroom work.



## M-G-M To Release In 1948 Impressive List Of Pictures

Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer has announced an impressive list of pictures to be released to theatres between now and the Spring of 1949. While the line-up comprises films completed and those now before the cameras, it also includes subjects that are now in preparation for early filming.

### Scheduled For Production

On the list of stories scheduled for production are: "Neptune's Daughter", Esther Williams, Ricardo Montalban and Betty Garrett; "The Story Of Monty Stratton", Van Johnson; "Angel's Flight", Clark Gable; "Words And Music", Judy Garland, Mickey Rooney, Tom Drake, Vera-Ellen, Janet Leigh and Betty Garrett; "Edward, My Son", Spencer Tracy and Deborah Kerr; "The Saintly Miss Peters", Greer Garson; "Great Sinner", Gregory Peck; "The House Above The River", Robert Taylor and Ava Gardner; "The Three Godfathers", Argosy film; "Vespers In Vienna", and an untitled story to be produced by Horizon Pictures with Sam Spiegel as producer and John Huston as director.

### Already Completed

Pictures already completed are: "Homecoming", with Clark Gable, Lana Turner, Anne Baxter and John Hodiak; Frank Capra's "State Of The Union", Spencer Tracy, Katharine Hepburn, Van Johnson, Angela Lansbury, Adolphe Menjou, Lewis Stone; Irving Berlin's "Easter Parade", Judy Garland, Fred Astaire, Peter Lawford and Ann Miller; "The Pirate", Judy Garland and Gene Kelly; "The Bride Goes Wild", Van Johnson and June Allyson; "B.F.'s Daughter", Barbara Stanwyck, Van Heflin, Charles Coburn, Richard Hart, Keenan Wynn; "Big City", Margaret O'Brien, Robert Preston, Danny Thomas, George Murphy, Karin Booth, Edward Arnold, Butch Jenkins, and introducing Betty Garrett and Lotte Lehmann; "The Hills Of Home", with Lassie, Edmund Gwenn, Donald Crisp, Tom Drake and Janet Leigh; "On An Island With You", Esther Williams, Peter Law-

ford, Ricardo Montalban, Jimmy Durante, Cyd Charisse, Xavier Cugat and his orchestra; "The Kissing Bandit", Frank Sinatra and Kathryn Grayson; "Luxury Liner", George Brent, Jane Powell, Lauritz Melchior, Frances Gifford, Marina Koshetz, Xavier Cugat and his orchestra; "Summer Holiday", Mickey Rooney and Gloria De Haven with Walter Huston, Frank Morgan, Butch Jenkins; "A Date With Judy", Wallace Beery, Jane Powell, Elizabeth Taylor, Carmen Miranda, Xavier Cugat and his orchestra, Robert Stack; and "A Southern Yankee", Red Skelton, Brian Donlevy and Arlene Dahl.

### In Production

Now in production are: "Julia Misbehaves", Greer Garson, Walter Pidgeon, Peter Lawford, Cesar Romero, Elizabeth Taylor; and "The Three Musketeers", Lana Turner, Gene Kelly, Van Heflin, June Allyson, Angela Lansbury, Frank Morgan, Keenan Wynn, Vincent Price, Robert Coote, Gig Young, John Sutton.

### CMPDA RE-ELECTS OFFICERS

At the annual meeting of the Canadian Motion Picture Distributors Association held recently, the following officers were elected for the year 1948: President, Gordon Lightstone, Paramount Film Service; vice-president, David Griesdorf, International Film Distributors; secretary-treasurer, E. H. Wells. Directors are Gordon Lightstone, Arthur Silverstone, T. J. Gould, L. M. Devaney, A. W. Perry, C. S. Chaplin, D. Griesdorf, Haskell Masters, Harvey Harnick and Frank Fisher.

### Film Boards Of Trade Elect 1948 Officers

At the recent elections for officers of the Toronto Film Board of Trade, Garfield Cass, of Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer was elected president succeeding Harry Bailey of 20th Century-Fox. Russell Simpson was elected vice-president and Eddie Wells, secretary. Chairman of the credit committee is Perry Wright of Empire Universal. Included in the committee are Jack Bernstein of R-K-O and Peter Myers of Eagle-Lion. Fire marshal is Douglas Rosen of United Artists.

In Winnipeg, I. W. Blankstein was elected president of the Winnipeg Film Board of Trade for the coming year. Other officers elected at the annual Board meeting, held last week were A. Feinstein, vice-president; S. Gunn, honorary secretary; F. Davis, fire marshal; and A. Levy, assistant fire marshal. The credit committee consists of S. Gunn, M. Nackimson and I. Levitt.

### FORM RANK CANADIAN CO.

Formation of The J. Arthur Rank Organization of Canada Limited, of which Hon. J. Earl Lawson, K.C., is president, is announced following the arrival of Mr. Rank on this continent for a series of business conferences with U.S. and Canadian associates.

"Matters of common interest to the different Canadian companies in this organization, which for operating efficiency require maximum co-operation and co-ordination, will in future be under the guidance and direction, as far as general policy is concerned, of the new company", Hon. Mr. Lawson explained. He also heads the various individual companies in the Dominion which represent these British film interests here.

Mr. Lawson announced the appointment of James A. Cowan as director of publicity and public relations, effective immediately.



At the gala opening of the new Odeon Theatre at Victoria, B.C., many officials of Odeon Theatres of Canada were in attendance. Shown seated in the lobby are, from left to right: Earl Hayter, Odeon B.C. supervisor; Howard Boothe, Odeon B.C. district manager; L. W. Brockington, vice-president and chairman of the Board of Directors; George Peters, Odeon vice-president; and Al Davidson, manager of the new theatre. In photo at the left, the exterior of the theatre, which was designed by the late Jay English, is seen outlined in the beam of the many searchlights which were used for the occasion.



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## J. Arthur Rank Guest Speaker At Boston Founders Day Ceremony

J. Arthur Rank attended the Founders Day ceremonies, on March 12th, at Boston University, Boston, Massachusetts, as guest speaker. He received from the Boston University, an honorary degree of Bachelor of Law and Science.

Highlights of Mr. Rank's address, which was devoted to the subject of motion pictures, are condensed below.

"I am deeply honored to be with you, I regard your invitation to come here, not only as a great compliment to me personally, but as a mark of recognition for what we in Britain have been able to do for world education, through the medium of the motion picture.

"The greatest need of the world today is understanding, and the first step to understanding is knowledge.

"Through the great media of mass communication, print, radio and motion pictures, we must exchange our points of view . . . I am not qualified to speak of the radio or the press, but a decade in the film industry has given me some strong opinions. They are not infallible, but they are sincere.

"In my life-time I have seen the cinema grow from humble beginnings to become perhaps the most popular art form of today.

"Educationalists have turned the camera into an all-seeing eye that can range a continent or find a universe in a grain of sand.

"Our main purpose is to enlighten. It is possible to drug the imagination and give sentiment instead of truth. But it is also possible to stimulate, to re-create, in the best sense, to be honest and sincere. Films can inform as well as amuse. Their raw material is life itself.

"The Director of Films and Visual Education for the United States has said that the new mission of the film is to make men realize they are brethren. Weeping and laughing, struggling, failing and succeeding, these are the elements of life, tied neither to nationality, nor to language. They are the root of the human spirit.

"Such films have been made in Hollywood, and some of them in Britain. It is my hope that we shall produce more films of the same kind, and so make the motion picture worthy of its place in our lives. It can present nation to nation in the finest detail. It can convey, in the most graphic form, a national point of view. In doing so, it will transcend the particular and touch on those universals which are our common heritage.

"For these reasons, the cinema is an international art. Each country will produce a type peculiar to itself and yet preserve an appeal for all. We need every good film that is made whatever its origin.

"The industry cannot accomplish its task alone. It needs support from without, and in particular, support

from such centres of culture and learning as Boston University. It is a great satisfaction to us that the first performance of "Henry V" in the United States took place here in Boston, for we regard this film as one of our greatest achievements.

"Experiments are going on now which may well have a profound effect on the whole future of motion pictures. I do not want to trespass on the field which will be covered by General Sarnoff, whose address, I am sure, will include a great deal that will interest us on the subject of television.

"It is a source of encouragement at this time to recall a very cogent remark made by one of the great leaders of your American Film Industry, Nicholas Schenck. He said 'Everyone has two businesses — his own, and motion pictures'. I welcome this attitude.

"Ours is the most powerful suggestive medium in the world. It is important that the world should understand that in films there are many men of high ideals and great vision.

"An immense contribution to public knowledge is also being made by the producers of short films, documentary, instructional, industrial and educational films. In many ways the most important of these films made recently, is one just shown in your country, a ten reel film on Atomic Physics, which, for the first time, has brought to the screen a graphic interpretation of the immense contribution which the harnessing of atomic energy can make to the progress of mankind.

"I believe that the short film is also bringing to the screen a new kind of screen reporting. We are trying to develop this with a series which we call "This Modern Age", and which I frankly admit owes much to your own "March of Time".

"Today, truth in every form of public expression — newspaper, radio or cinema — is not something vaguely desirable, but urgently necessary. Not least important in this building up of public taste is the work which we are now doing in the production of special films for children.

"It is a most stimulating task, making pictures for an audience which is at once the most critical and the most appreciative in the world. If our films can help make better citizens of the future, then, by virtue of this alone, I shall consider my excursion into the world of cinema, well worth while.

"But I am, of course, a business man, and I have made a bid to put our films onto the world markets, not only because I wanted people to know about us, but because I believe that motion pictures could be a spearhead in Britain's battle against adverse trade balances. So we are using British films as Trade Ambassadors for British goods, just as you have used American films to stimulate the export sales of American goods; and it is my hope that the foreign revenue from our films, will, in time, grow to become a most important item in our national balance sheet.

"One or two people have the idea that I was in some way responsible for urging the British government in their restrictions of American film imports. I can assure you that in those matters I have no such eminence.

"Apart from my personal conviction that the American and British people must be brought together, and must stay together, for the sake of humanity, as a business man, when I read of the tax in my morning paper, it was clear to me that it would hit me as hard as it hit Hollywood.

"Each time we make a good picture we contribute something in art, in ethics and in spirit. I do not exaggerate when I say that ours is the greatest agency for moulding public opinion, taste and knowledge. For men of good will, there is in motion pictures a job of work, a career and a crusade. To help to guide our future course is an exciting task.

"I can say with sincerity that I shall draw great strength and encouragement from the pleasure and privilege of being with you."

*EDITOR'S NOTE—There were many other highlights in J. Arthur Rank's speech, but as the Digest was on the presses, we were obliged to skim the surface of an excellent, and enlightening talk. When Mr. Rank heard of the British film tax settlement, he said "I am very happy, both for America and England. I have always felt that whenever Britons and Americans can get together around a table, they never fail to reach a happy solution to any problem".*

### F-P NORTOWN OPENS

The Nortown, Famous Players first post-war theatre, opened in Toronto, on Wednesday, March 17th, with the 20th Century-Fox comedy, "Sitting Pretty". Manager of the new house, which will play first run pictures, day-and-date with the Victoria Theatre, is Bill Falls, formerly assistant manager at the F-P Tivoli Theatre. Newspaper ads played up features which were exclusive with the new theatre. Among these included push back chairs and a reverse pitch floor, which insures complete vision from any part of the theatre.



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**GEORGE STEVENS'**

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*Executive Producer and Director*

**GEORGE STEVENS**

*Produced by* **HARRIET PARSONS**

*Screen Play by* **DeWITT BODEEN**

*Based Upon the Play by* **JOHN VAN DRUTEN**



## « Capital Story »

By WILL McLAUGHLIN

**B**IGGEST outdoor show of the week was on "BA-Day", when Barbara Ann Scott came home to a welcome far exceeding, in warmth of expression, anything seen in this staid capital since 1945's memorable VE-Day. More than half the city's population lined downtown street curbs six deep to welcome the Olympic, European and World's figure skating champion, while tens of thousands more cheered Barbara from store and office windows along the parade route. Adults and children, the latter given a half-holiday, infants in arms, excited high Government officials, even the Prime Minister himself, dropped everything in one wild concerted effort to make the Champion's home-coming the greatest ever accorded to anyone in the flag-draped city of Ottawa.

It was a gala day and one which saw all the first-run theatres benefiting from the crowds which converged on the centre of the city for the reception. While father had to go back to the office, mother and the children made a day of it, with the huge Capitol, Centre and Regent Theatres reporting extra big matinee business.

\* \* \*

*The Regent (Famous Players) Theatre has at last been equipped with a candy bar. Recently completed along with several other important interior improvements, the candy bar was officially opened the other day by manager Henry Marshall, with an attractive young uniformed girl in charge of sales.*

\* \* \*

Just received a telephone call from Henry Marshall, manager of the Regent Theatre, to say that he was showing Paramount's official motion picture record of Barbara Ann Scott's civic reception "just 24 hours after the pictures were taken in Ottawa", which does set up some sort of a record in topical newsreel presentation.

*The Ottawa Film Council has presented Mayor Stanley Lewis with a brief asking for support in the civic estimates for the newly-formed Film Section of the Ottawa Public Library. The brief pointed out the need for film service to community groups, and that there are already 165 municipally supported film libraries throughout Canada.*

\* \* \*

Information on a survey "of conditions under which employees of the National Film Board are required to carry on their work in the various buildings occupied by the Board in Ottawa", is sought in a motion placed by Alistair Stewart (CCF, Winnipeg) on the House of Commons order paper the other day. Mr. Stewart, newest critic of National Film Board activities, also asked questions on the NFB offices in the British Commonwealth, the United States and other countries, and information as to the staff and cost of operating such offices.

\* \* \*

*Fred Robertson, owner and operator of the Mayfair Theatre, Ottawa South, has got aboard the "give-a-way" bandwagon with a number of other neighborhood and district theatres. Fred took large newspaper space to announce "for Free" the first cups and saucers of what is to be a 44-piece glass tableware set.*

\* \* \*

While Barbara Ann Scott was receiving the plaudits of her thousands of admirers as she drove triumphant through centre town streets, Ray Tubman was holding a reception in his office at the Capitol Theatre. It was Ray's first day at the theatre since his return from a well-earned Winter vacation in Florida, and the hundreds of messages, telephone calls and personal expressions of "welcome home, Ray", indicate the wide popularity of the Capitol manager.

## RAY PRESENTS

(Continued from Page 3)

hold-over at Loew's. If names pre-sell a picture, the combination of a Sinclair Lewis story, with Spencer Tracy, Lana Turner, Zachary Scott is an ace combination.

*Maurice Chevalier, in "Man About Town", a Rene Clair directed picture, released by R-K-O-Radio, in the French language, with superimposed English titles, was at the International Cinema, Toronto, last week.*

*"Shoe Shine", selected as one of the year's Ten Best pictures, and nominated for an Academy Award, closed a week's engagement at the Royal Alexandra, Road Show, top price 90 cents. I thought the American press, including trade, magazine, daily press, had said about everything*

## Maritime News

By A. L. FAIRWEATHER

**J**AMES WHITEBONE, President of the New Brunswick Federation of Labor and member of the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada, has returned from a brief visit to Ottawa. While in Ottawa Mr. Whitebone had an interview with Hon. Humphrey Mitchell, Minister of Labor and Hon. Milton F. Gregg, Minister of Veteran's Affairs, to discuss the unemployment situation at Saint John, occasioned by stoppage of work at the Saint John Dry Dock. Mr. Whitebone went to Ottawa over the weekend to present a brief from the Labor Congress to the Government.

\* \* \*

*No accounting for tastes. From one source comes a suggestion that audiences are tired of horror films, while at the Mayfair Theatre a horror double bill filled the theatre many times, with crowds queued up to see "The Man They Could Not Hang" plus "The Revolt Of The Zombies". Moral, a lot of people like to be thrilled and scared.*

\* \* \*

The Capitol Theatre, Saint John, had a very fine bill last week, with both pictures having great drawing attraction. "Crossfire" played the first of the week, followed by "The Secret Life Of Walter Mitty", added to which was the Audio reel, distributed by Columbia Pictures, of Barbara Ann Scott, "Dancing Blades". This reel was given special billing in the Capitol's ads, and as Saint John has now a Figure Skating Club, it will have a special appeal to many, in addition to Barbara's world fame as a Canadian Champion.

\* \* \*

*M. Isman, Assistant General Manager for Empire-Universal, paid a visit to Saint John where he conferred with H. Mathers of the local office.*

*that could be said about "Shoe Shine", but the Toronto press found a coinage of words which they used in their tributes, and which measured up to the most glowing tributes which this Italian-produced picture received in America.*





## Vancouver News

By JACK DROY

MRS. L. WARREN, on behalf of Warren Theatres, Limited, of Port Alberni, has purchased a piece of property across from the Bank of Commerce at Qualicum Beach, B.C. Spot is on Vancouver Island, midway between Nanaimo and Port Alberni. A 350-seat moving picture house will be built on the property shortly. Construction will get under way by May 1st. Harold Warren will handle the organization of the venture. Mrs. Warren's plans for the erection of a theatre at Parksville, 7 miles away, have been deferred until the completion of the Qualicum house. Eventually it is planned to establish in Parksville as well as Qualicum. Warren is a F-P partner in 3 Alberni theatres.

\* \* \*

*General Films Ltd. and the National Film Board, now housed in a downtown block, will have to find new quarters. The building will be converted into a medical clinic by a syndicate of Vancouver doctors.*

\* \* \*

At a time when theatre attendance is off an estimated 25 per cent, Vancouver is enjoying perhaps its greatest boom in sports. More people are spending money to see hockey, wrestling, prize-fights, and basketball events than ever before. Some sports are drawing 50 per cent greater attendance than a year ago. The situation is said to be about the same in New Westminster and Victoria. Meanwhile, theatre operators find their crowds constantly getting slimmer. This appears to be especially true out of town. Exhibitors blame it on the high cost of living, reduced employment, and the 20 per cent federal tax, but both these factors enter into sports attendances, too.

\* \* \*

*Ruth Holm, formerly at the Orpheum, is now head usherette at the Odeon-Plaza, and Elsie Krakonchuk, who was at the Plaza, is now head usherette at the F-P Strand. Esther Keen, Rex Theatre cashier, will marry John Batchelor, in June.*

\* \* \*

Busy cameraman, Ross Beesley, veteran movie lensman for Associated Screen News on the West Coast, recently completed 4,000 miles of assignments. He flew from Vancouver to the Yukon Territory to cover the Canadian Army's Arctic exercises; then he left for Banff for the Dominion Ski Championships; from there he rushed to Calgary for the Macdonald Brier Curling Bonspiel; the next leg of his trip took him to film the Australian rugby games at Victoria. The edited film will last 5½ minutes on the screen.

*The Cascades Drive-in Theatre, run by the Steel-Johnson interests, near Vancouver, reopened its third season this week. An added service this year is babies bottles heated and refreshments served in your car.*

\* \* \*

A conscience-stricken youth gave and threw away a total of \$670, stolen money. After seeing the film "Each Dawn I Die", which shows crime does not pay, and alarmed at carrying the stolen money in his pockets, he dropped \$590 on the floor in the Paradise Theatre. On leaving the theatre, he gave \$80 to doorman, Johnny Jones, telling him he had found it in the theatre. The janitor, Reggie Trish, subsequently discovered the \$590 on the floor. The youth was arrested by police. The two Odeon-Paradise employees who turned in the money have received no reward to date from the owner of the stolen money. Papers played the story up big on their front page.

### WANTED

Aggressive publicist and exploiteer desires position with Independent or Circuit in Ontario. Have managed, supervised and have several B.O. attractions copyrighted. Can produce results. For complete background, write BOX 50 —DIGEST

## Trans-Canada Showing

Use This Information As Your Guide On Release Dates

### TORONTO

#### CAPITOL-VICTORIA

"The Challenge" (Fox), with Tom Conway and June Vincent. Also "Dangerous Years" (Fox), with William Halop and Ann Todd.

#### EGLINTON-TIVOLI

3rd week. "Gentleman's Agreement" (Fox), with Gregory Peck, Dorothy McGuire and John Garfield.

#### FAIRLAWN

2nd week. "Nicholas Nickleby" (E-L), with Cedric Hardwicke and Stanley Holloway.

#### IMPERIAL

"Out of the Past" (R-K-O), with Robert Mitchum and Jane Greer.

#### LOEW'S

2nd week. "Cass Timberlane" (M-G-M), with Spencer Tracy and Lana Turner.

#### SHEA'S

"Night Song" (R-K-O), with Dana Andrews and Merle Oberon.

#### UPTOWN

2nd week. "A Double Life" (U-I), with Ronald Colman and Signe Hasso.

### WINNIPEG

#### CAPITOL

"Road To Rio" (Para.), with Bing Crosby, Bob Hope and Dorothy Lamour.

#### GARRICK

"Ride The Pink Horse" (U-I), with Robert Montgomery.

#### METROPOLITAN

"I Walk Alone" (Para.), with Burt Lancaster and Elizabeth Scott.

#### ODEON

2nd week. "Jassy" (E-L), Technicolor, with Margaret Lockwood and Patricia Roc.

#### RIALTO

"The Man They Could Not Hang" (Alliance), with Boris Karloff. Also "Revolt of the Zombies" (Alliance), with Dean Jagger.

### AVAILABLE

Young man, 28, desires job in theatre, willing to do any kind of work. Has had 2½ years experience on Simplex E7 machine, overseas. Also on Bell-Howell machine. Write

JACK PASCOE

22 Gore Street - Toronto, Ontario

No less than six Vancouver theatres are holding over their pictures the current week. "Captain from Castile" at the Orpheum is the leader; "Quiet Weekend" at the International Cinema, and "Jassy" at the Vogue are both on their third week and still doing well.

\* \* \*

On arrival in Vancouver, Leo M. Devaney, Canadian General Manager of R-K-O, addressed the Ad and Sales Bureau of the Vancouver Board of Trade at a luncheon. Frank Gow and Maynard Joiner of F-P, Howard Boothe of Odeon, and Lloyd Muir, R-K-O exploiteer, were also at the head table. Leo introduced the speaker, Susan Fletcher, radio and film commentator to the capacity audience. Also present were Jimmy Davie and Bill Jones, from R-K-O; Jimmy Patterson, from Fox; and Earl Dalglish, of Warner Bros. Devaney flew to Victoria to see the new Odeon "A" house and also visited the new Odeon at West Vancouver during his visit to the coast, and reported that business was tops across the Dominion on R-K-O pictures.

### SAINT JOHN

#### CAPITOL

"Crossfire" (R-K-O), with Robert Young, Robert Mitchum and Robert Ryan.

#### MAYFAIR

"Cry Wolf" (W-B), with Errol Flynn and Barbara Stanwyck. Also "Smart Politics" (Mono.), with Freddie Stewart and June Preisser.

#### STRAND

"The Adventures of Tom Sawyer" (Alliance), with Tommy Kelly.

### VANCOUVER

#### CAPITOL

"Magic Town" (R-K-O), with James Stewart and Jane Wyman.

#### HASTINGS

"Pirates of Monterey" (U-I), Technicolor, with Maria Montez and Rod Cameron. Also "So Well Remembered" (E-L), with John Mills and Patricia Roc.

#### INTERNATIONAL CINEMA

3rd week. "Quiet Weekend" (Int'l), with Derek Farr and Marjorie Fielding.

#### ORPHEUM

"Captain From Castile" (Fox), Technicolor, with Tyrone Power and Jean Peters.

#### PARADISE

2nd week. "Each Dawn I Die" (W-B re-issue), with James Cagney and George Raft. Also "Wild Bill Hickok" (W-B re-issue), with Constance Bennett and Bruce Cabot.

#### PARK-PLAZA

"Secret Beyond The Door" (U-I), with Joan Bennett and Michael Redgrave.

#### VOGUE

2nd week. "Jassy" (E-L), Technicolor, with Margaret Lockwood.



# One Of The Few Really Great Motion Pictures Of 1947

LIFE MAGAZINE  
MARCH 8th, 1948

\*\*\*\*\*

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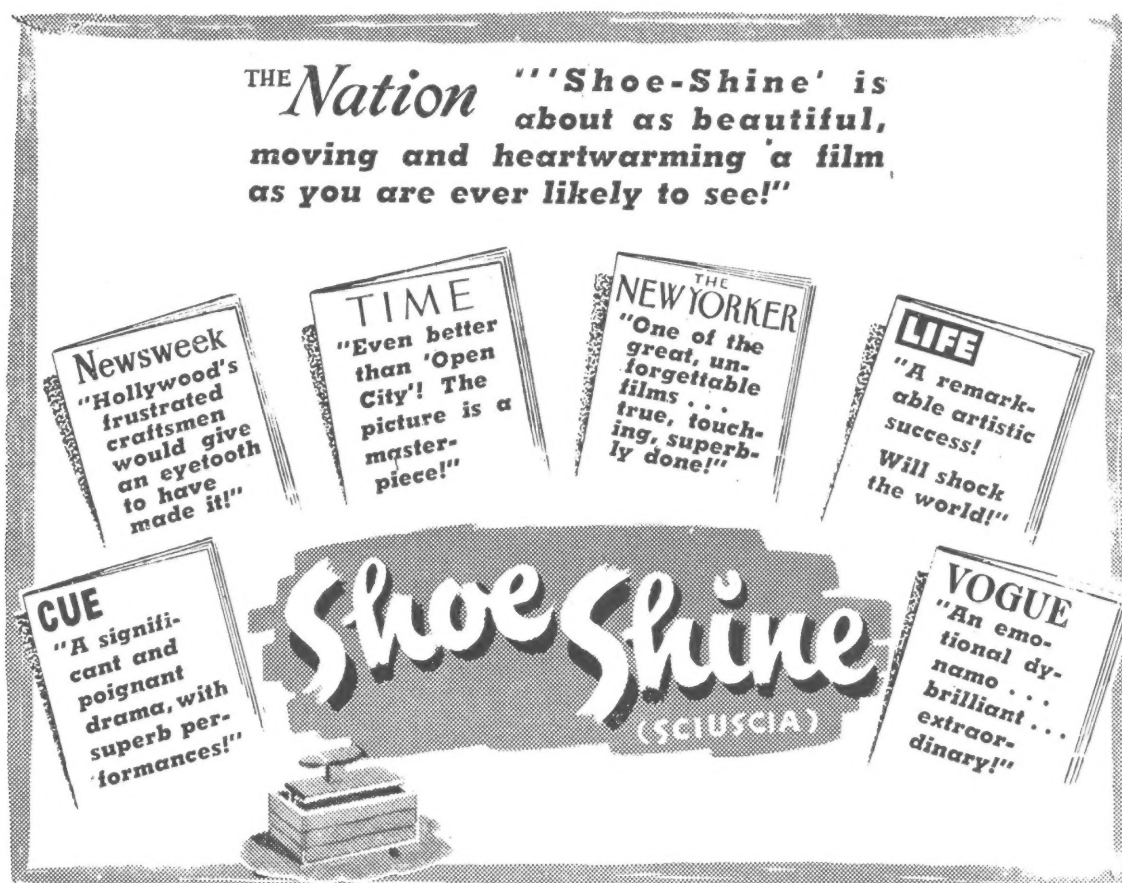
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# Allied Artists

## PRODUCTIONS

PRODUCTION	CAST	PRODUCER DIRECTOR	Running Time
IT HAPPENED on 5th AVE.	Don Defore, Ann Harding, Gale Storm, Victor Moore, Charlie Ruggles	Roy Del Ruth	114 Minutes
BLACK GOLD (in Cinecolor)	Anthony Quinn, Katherine DeMille, Elyse Knox, Kane Richmond, Ducky Louie	Jeffrey Bernerd Phil Karlson	89 Minutes
THE GANGSTER	Barry Sullivan, Belita, Joan Loring, Akim Tamiroff, John Ireland	King Bros. Gordon Wiles	86 Minutes
SONG OF MY HEART	Frank Sundstrom, Audrey Long, Sir C. Hardwicke, Mikhail Rasumny	Nat. W. Finston J. Theodore Reed Benjamin Glazer	85 Minutes
PANHANDLE (in Sepia Tone)	Rod Cameron, Cathy Downs, Anne Gwynne, Reed Hadley, Blake Edwards	John Champion Blake Edwards Lesley Selander	84 Minutes
THE HUNTED	Preston Foster, Belita, Pierre Watkin, Larry Blake, Joseph Crehan	Scott R. Dunlap Jack Bernhard	85 Minutes

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